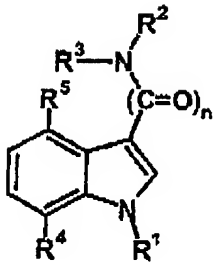
IN THE CLAIMS

1-41 (canceled)

42. (new) A compound of formula 1,



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wherein

n is 1 or 2, and

R^1

(i) is $-C_{1-10}$-alkyl, which is straight-chain or branched and optionally substituted, once or more than once, by mono-, bi- or tricyclic saturated or monounsaturated or polyunsaturated carbocycles having 3-14 ring members, where the carbocyclic substituents are substituted once or more than once by $-NO_2$ be optionally substituted, once or more than once, by $-C_{1-6}$-alkyl, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-N(C_{1-6}\text{-alkyl})_2$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, $-O-C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-S-C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-OSO_2C_{1-6}$alkyl, -COOH, $-(CO)C_{1-5}$-alkyl or $-O(CO)C_{1-5}$-alkyl, and where the alkyl groups on the carbocyclic substituents can, for their part, be

optionally substituted, once or more than once, by –OH, -SH, -NH_2, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -SO_3H or –COOH;

R^2 and R^3

(i) are, in each case independently of each other, hydrogen or –C_{1-5}-alkyl,

which is optionally substituted, once or more than once, by –OH, -SH, -NH_2, -NHC_{1-6}-alkyl, -$N(C_{1-6}$-alkyl$)_2$, -NO_2, -CN, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C_{1-6}-alkyl, -S-C_{1-6}-alkyl, -phenyl or -pyridyl,

-phenyl,

which is optionally substituted, once or more than once, by –C_{1-3}-alkyl, -OH, -SH, -NH_2, -NHC_{1-3}-alkyl, -$N(C_{1-3}$-alkyl$)_2$, -NO_2, -CN, -COOH, -$COOC_{1-3}$-alkyl, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C_{1-3}-alkyl, -S-C_{1-3}-alkyl or –O(CO)-C_{1-3}-alkyl,

-pyridyl,

which is optionally substituted, once or more than once, by –C_{1-3}-alkyl, -OH, -SH, -NO_2, -CN, -COOH, -$COOC_{1-3}$-alkyl, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C_{1-3}-alkyl, -S-C_{1-3}-alkyl or –O(CO)-C_{1-3}-alkyl,

where only one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen and where the alkyl groups on the carbocyclic and heterocyclic substituents can, for their part, be optionally substituted, once or more than once, by -OH, -SH, -NH_2, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -SO_3H, -COOH, –(CO)-C_{1-5}-alkyl, or -O(CO)C_{1-5}-alkyl, or

(ii) NR^2R^3 together form a saturated or unsaturated five-membered or six-membered ring which can contain up to 3 heteroatoms, preferably N, S and O, and which is optionally substituted, once or more than once, by –C_{1-3}-alkyl, -OH, -SH, -NO_2, -CN,

-COOH, -$COOC_{1-3}$-alkyl, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, -O-C_{1-3}-alkyl, -S-C_{1-3}-alkyl or -O(CO)-C_{1-3}-alkyl,

R^4 and R^5 are –H or –OH, where at least one of the two must be –OH, or salts of the compounds according to formula 1.

43. (new) A compound according to claim 42, wherein said compound has an asymmetric carbon atom in the D form or L form, or D,L mixtures or, when more than one asymmetrical carbon atom is present, the diastereomeric forms.

44. (new) A compound according to claim 42, wherein n is 2.

45. (new) A compound according to claim 42, wherein R^4 = -OH and R^5 = -H.

46. (new) A compound according to claim 42, wherein -NR^2R^3 is a phenylamino or pyridylamino which is substituted by one or more halogen atoms.

47. (new) A compound according to claim 42, wherein R^1 is a substituted benzyl radical.

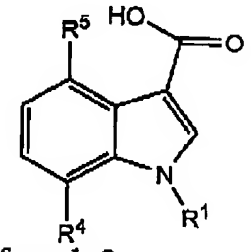
48. (new) A compound according to claim 47, whercin the benzyl radical contains at least one substituent in the ortho position on the phenyl ring.

49. (new) A compound according to claim 42, selected from the group consisting of,

N-(3,5-dichloropyridin-4-yl)-[1-(3-nitrobenzyl)-7-hydroxyindol-3-yl]glyoxylic acid amide

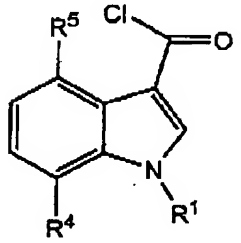
and physiologically tolerated salts thereof.

50. (new) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 22, comprising reacting an indole-3-carboxylic acid of formula 2:



formula 2

with an acid chloride to form the analogous indole-3-carbonyl chloride of the formula 3



formula 3

reacting the compound of formula 3 with a primary and a secondary amine to form the corresponding amide and eliminating a protecting group to form a compound of formula 1, wherein n = 1.

51. (new) A process according to claim 50, wherein said acid chloride is thionyl chloride or oxalyl chloride to synthesize the indole-3-carbonyl chlorides according to formula 3.

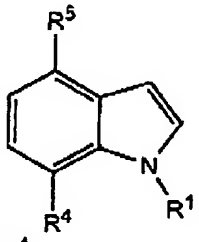
52. (new) A process according to claim 50, wherein said indole-3-carbonyl chloride according to formula 3 are reacted with primary or secondary amines in the presence of an auxiliary base.

53. (new) A process according to claim 50, wherein said indole-3-carbonyla chloride is reacted with a primar or secondary amine in the presence of an excess of amine.

54. (new) A process according to claim 53, wherein the excess amine is a tertiary aminc.

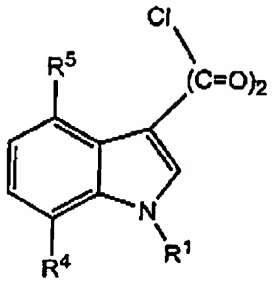
55. (new) A process according to claim 52, wherein indole-3-carbonyl chloride is reacted in the presence of an inorganic base.

56. (new) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 42, comprising reacting an indole formula 4



formula 4

with oxalyl chloride to form the analogous indol-3-ylglyoxylyl chloride of formula 5



formula 5

reacting the compound of formula 5 with a primary or secondary amine to form the corresponding amide and eliminating a protecting group to form a compound according to formula 1, wherein n is 2.

57. (new) A process according to claim 56, wherein indol-3-ylglyoxylyl chlorides according to formula 5 are reacted with primary or secondary amines in the presence of an auxiliary base.

58. (new) A method for inhibiting PDE 4 comprising administering a sufficient amount of a compound of claim 42 to a subject to inhibit PDE 4.

59. (new) A method for treating a disease associated with the activity of eosinophils, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 42 to a subject in need thereof.

60. (new) A method for treating a disease associated with the activity of neutrophils comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 42 to a subject in need thereof.

61. (new) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least one compound according to claim 47 and at least one of a customary, physiologically tolerated excipient, diluent or auxiliary substance.

62. (new) A process for producing a pharmaceutical dosage form comprising admixing at least one compound according to claim 42 with a customary pharmaceutical carrier substance, a diluent or an auxiliary substance to form a therapeutically desirable pharmaceutical preparation.

63. (new) A method of treating modifying the activity of PDE 4 in a subject in need thereof comprising administering the dosage form of claim 61 to a subject in need thereof, optionally with a different therapeutically active agent.